

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 536
By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to designate April 20, 1996, as "Arbor Day" and "Earth Day" in Tennessee, and to commemorate the fifth joint celebration of Arbor Day by Tennessee and Virginia .

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to designate April 20, 1996, as "Arbor Day" and "Earth Day" in Tennessee; this day should mean much more than a simple designation of time and place, but should carry with it a desire and purpose to add beauty and a homelike appearance to the landscape by planting and taking care of trees, which constitute one of the greatest achievements of nature; and

WHEREAS, trees shelter and beautify our homes, shade our streets and highways, give charm and dignity to our parks, and life and character to our landscapes; and

WHEREAS, at a time when land is being paved at an extraordinary rate, and when trees are being felled for road expansion programs, the beauty of our communities can only be achieved through unprecedented civic effort; tree planting is one of the most important activities we can undertake to assure America's beauty; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Bristol, Tennessee are deserving of the commendation of this General Assembly for their exemplary beautification efforts via their active Tree City USA Board, a board founded in 1987 in association with Keep Bristol Beautiful; and

WHEREAS, the first co-chairmen, Dr. Don Ellis and John Warner, gave unreservedly of themselves to the young organization promoting Bristol's first Arbor Day Ceremony at the corner

of State Street and Edgemoont Avenue and undertaking such projects as tree planting in a newly developed Bristol subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the board began raising funds in 1989 for the planting of trees, established an honorariums and memorials program, developed a public service announcement and organized Bristol's "One In A Million" campaign, an exemplary effort to plant one million trees in Bristol for the Bicentennial; the second Arbor Day celebration was once again a success as the TCUSA board held the festivities at Liberty Triangle on Volunteer Parkway; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the other successes in that year, board members and volunteers were instrumental in the certification of TCUSA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Tennessee Forestry Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the six-year "One In A Million" campaign was officially launched with the beginning of the Bicentennial tree planting efforts; in addition, the TCUSA board sponsored the third annual Arbor Day celebration held in Little Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, the fourth year of TCUSA brought about the continuation of the one million trees project; also in 1991, the board reviewed TCUSA's bylaws, ordinances and board member responsibilities, made application for tree grant funding, coordinated the adopt-a-spot program and convinced the city of the need for a tree inventory; and

WHEREAS, experiencing tremendous growth in 1991, the TCUSA board realized the need for a marketing arm and began its association with the East High School DECA Club; the club began marketing TCUSA through the use of billboards, McDonald's tray liners, a milk carton message and Sprint United Telephone's "Talking Fingers" program; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial Triangle in Bristol served as the site of the 1991 Arbor Day festivities and five memorial trees were planted signifying the branches of the Armed Services that participated in Desert Storm; TCUSA also began the successful holiday "Chipping of the Green" project in 1991 and conducted the first Christmas Tree Sales project promoting the planting of Colorado Blue Spruce trees on business properties; and

WHEREAS, 1992 proved to be an even busier year for this laudable organization as the Board became involved in the Bristol, Tennessee tree walk project, participated in an environmental exhibitors display, assisted the city and Keep Bristol Beautiful with the creation of a greenbelt downtown, and dedicated the Arbor Day Directory sign located at the first Arbor Day ceremony site; and

WHEREAS, 1992 also marked the second annual "Chipping of the Green" and the board continued work on the "One In A Million" campaign; the TCUSA Board was the recipient of the distinguished Growth Award in 1992 and received a sizable Keep Bristol Beautiful grant; the 1992 Arbor and Earth Day celebration was held at Little Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, a Tree Accounting sign was erected to engage the entire community in the progress of the admirable "One In A Million" project; the year also marked the beginning of the "Ecology Award" presented monthly by TCUSA to local business community and the beginning of tree projects in association with local schools; and

WHEREAS, TCUSA was the deserving recipient of several important grants in 1993 with which they were able to place "color splash" paintings on Volunteer Parkway, conduct tree species and tree inventory projects, and continue their greenbelt project efforts; TCUSA once again received the notable Growth Award, an accolade most befitting this fine organization; and

WHEREAS, TCUSA continued the annual Arbor Day and holiday projects and events in 1993, drawing an increasing number of eager participants; and

WHEREAS, efforts with the greenbelt project were continued in 1994, and TCUSA began to work hand-in-hand with the Tennessee High School Environmental Club; TCUSA reached a milestone in the "One In A Million" campaign in 1994, reporting 650,000 trees planted, and, in the same year, the board led the campaign to choose 12 "Bristol Select Trees"; and

WHEREAS, board members continued to give of their time and talents to the increasingly popular TCUSA annual events; the 1994 Arbor Day celebration focused on the involvement of local school children regarding environmental and reforestation awareness; and

WHEREAS, board members were certainly proud when the East High School DECA Club received the "Young Ecologist Action Award" in 1995 for their efforts with TCUSA; the board also worked with the City Planning Commission in 1995 to review current ordinances, conducted a power line tree removal project with the Bristol Tennessee Electric System, printed a tree maintenance brochure and held a Tree Planting and Maintenance seminar; the 1995 Bristol Arbor Day and Earth Day celebration was held at Steele Creek Park with local and state dignitaries in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the board stepped up tree planting efforts in 1995 in anticipation of the Bicentennial celebration; remarkably, more than 800,00 trees had been planted by the end of 1995; and

WHEREAS, community contributions to our Bristol area "one million trees" planting goal by 1996, through in-kind, financial and tree planting support, include EXIDE Corporation, Bristol Tennessee Electric System, Bristol Regional Medical Center, Bristol Compressors, Virginia Department of Transportation, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee High School Environmental Awareness Club, Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Keep Bristol Beautiful and the media; they are all assets to the entire community; and

WHEREAS, over 831,000 trees have been planted by the joint effort of Bristol, Tennessee and Virginia; we hereby dedicate this Arbor Day/Earth Day to the cooperative efforts of this exemplary community and to the commendable goal of planting one million trees by 1996; and

WHEREAS, the greatest good that can accrue to Tennessee from "Arbor Day/Earth Day" is not merely the planting of one or two trees here and there, but, rather, the attainment of

publicity via the media which would make everyone tree-conscious throughout the whole year;
and

WHEREAS, trees are essential to life; without them the surface of the earth would be bare and drab; in planting and taking care of a tree, each man, woman and child is encouraged to make an invaluable contribution to the lives of future generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That April 20, 1996, be designated as "Arbor Day/Earth Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby honors and recognizes the fifth annual joint celebration of Arbor Day by the sister states of Tennessee and Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, with this final resolving clause deleted, be prepared for presentation.